

Literacy Links

Volume VII, Issue I

September 2006

Coming Events:

- ELA Academic Standards Field Review September through mid-October
- Best Practice Seminar Series Quality Quinn, September 20
- WIN Fall Writing Conference Palmetto Expo Center November 1-3, 2006

For information about these programs, please refer to the articles in this issue of *Literacy Links*. This issue and past issues of *Literacy Links* can be found on the State Department's web page at <http://www.ed.sc.gov>.

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Field Review Starts in September for 2007 English Language Arts Standards

The process for revising the *South Carolina English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Standards 2002* has begun, with the field review for the 2007 standards starting the first of September and continuing through the middle of October.

Committees of teachers, administrators, special educators, parents, and community members met in March to review the current standards and make recommendations to the writing panel for revision. Additionally, national representatives met in May to formulate their recommendations.

The writing team considered recommendations as they revised the current ELA standards by developing standards and indicators. At present, the writing team is preparing a field review draft. Following the field review, the writing panel will consider all

recommendations for revision before the standards are submitted to the Education Oversight Committee and the State Board of Education for approval.

The field review document and the response form may be accessed from the Office of Curriculum and Standards Web site beginning September 8. Information sessions will be held regionally and locally. Dates and locations will be posted to the SDE Web site.

Teachers will use the 2007 ELA standards beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

Should you have questions regarding the English language arts standards revision process, contact Cathy Jones at cjones@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-0790.

Additional Grade Modules Added to ELA Support Documents on SDE Website

Last school year ELA members in the Office of Curriculum and Standards provided professional development to teachers on the support documents for the ELA standards.

The support documents included strand support documents, a Bloom's Overlay of the standards, and a Best Practices resource.

In addition to these documents, sample teaching modules with graphic organizers for each grade band were created.

Teachers requested additional modules be developed for all grades. These modules have been developed and are posted on the SDE website.

Teachers can access these modules to use in their classrooms as

is, or they can modify the modules to suit the needs of their students.

The modules show the integration of the four strands in the ELA standards: reading, writing, communication, and research. The modules also provide the teachers with possible book titles for a text set, the big ideas for teaching the module, standards addressed, and culminating assessments.

For questions about any of the English language arts support documents, please contact Allison Norwood at anorwood@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-2469 or Caroline Savage at csavage@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-4770.

SDE Website Reveals New Look

The State Department of Education's Web site has received a face-lift and address change.

MySschools.com changed its look and address to better meet the needs of the state's teachers, parents, and students. The new address is <http://www.ed.sc.gov>.

Also, the e-mail addresses of all SDE employees have changed. Employees will no longer use the sde.state.sc.us suffix; they now use ed.sc.gov.

Best Practice Seminars Start New School Year

A series of seminars highlighting best practices will again be offered during the 2006-2007 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the South Carolina International Reading Association (SCIRA).

Registration and topic information are included at the end of this newsletter. Many of the sessions are applicable to all content areas.

The first session of the series is September 20, with Quality Quinn. Her session will kick off the series with *Formative Assessment and Differentiation: The Missing Link*.

Quality Quinn is an author, international literacy consultant, and educational aggregator whose company serves school districts, state departments of education, foundations, and educational publishers. This session will examine literacy's role in

bridging the achievement gap through formative assessment and differentiation. How can administrators and teachers in all content areas work together to prepare for early success and keep students from falling further behind each year? Administrators and all content areas are encouraged to attend.

On October 24, Carol Jago will present on *Cohesive Writing: Handling the Paper Load through Improved Student Writing*. Carol Jago teaches English at Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica, California, and directs the California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA. She has authored several books for teachers: *With Rigor for All: Teaching the Classics to Contemporary Students*, *Beyond Standards: Excellence in the High School English Classroom*, *Cohesive Writing: Why Concept is Not Enough*, and *Papers, Papers, Papers: An English Teacher's Survival Guide*. This session offers practical

help with teaching students to write reflective essays both on demand and through revision.

Educators are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Please adhere to the registration deadlines located on the registration form so that we may plan accordingly.

If you have questions regarding your registration, contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have questions about the topics or presenters, please contact Caroline Savage at csavage@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-4770.

In the event of inclement weather in the Columbia area, please call 803-734-4770 after 6:00 p.m. the day prior to the session for cancellation information.

Date	Presenter	Audience	Topic
September 20, 2006	Quality Quinn	All Levels (Administrator Strand)	<i>Formative Assessment and Differentiation: The Missing Link</i>
October 24, 2006	Carol Jago	Middle/High School	<i>Cohesive Writing: Handling the Paper Load through Improved Student Writing</i>
November 17, 2006	Tim Rasinski	All Levels	<i>Working with Struggling Readers: Effective and Engaging Strategies that Work</i>
November 29, 2006	Joyce Van Tassel-Baska	All Levels (Administrator Strand)	<i>Differentiation and Working With the Accelerated Learner in All Classrooms</i>
December 6, 2006	Frank Baker	Elementary	<i>Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: One of the 21st Century Literacy Skills</i>
December 7, 2006	Frank Baker	Middle/High School	<i>Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: One of the 21st Century Literacy Skills</i>
January 11, 2007	Carl Anderson	Elementary/ Middle	<i>How's It Going? Conferencing With Students</i>
February 14, 2007	Bruce Morgan	Elementary/ Middle	<i>Writing Through the 'Tween Years</i>
March 1, 2007	Janet Angelillo	Elementary/Middle	<i>A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation: Helping Writers Use Conventions with Precision and Purpose</i>
March 20, 2007	Sharon Kazee	All Levels	<i>Interdisciplinary Connections and the Arts</i>
April 26, 2007	Wendy Hoffer	Middle/High School	<i>Inquiry for Everyone!</i>

It's Time to Sign Up for This Year's Conferences

WIN's Fall Writing Conference

The Fall Writing Conference will be held in Greenville at the Palmetto Expo Center November 1-3, 2006. The theme is *Building Bridges Across the Curriculum*. The following speakers have been scheduled for the conference.

November 1

- Katie Wood Ray,
Pre-conference Workshop

November 2

- Lester Laminack,
Opening Keynote Speaker
- Richard Riley, Former Secretary of
Education and SC Governor;
Presentation of Exemplary
Writing Program Awards
- Cassandra King,
Luncheon Keynote Speaker

November 3

- Georgia Heard,
Morning Keynote Speaker
- Buffy Murphy, South Carolina Teacher
of the Year;
Luncheon Keynote Speaker

The Conference registration form will be posted to the WIN website, <http://www.winsc.org>, September 11, 2006.

Claffin University Conference on Contemporary English and Language Arts Pedagogy in Secondary and Post

Secondary Institutions

The Department of English and Foreign Languages at Claflin University, will host an English education workshop and a conference on language, literature, and pedagogy November 2-3, 2006. This year, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College is partnering for the two-day event. The theme for the conference is *The Country of the Blind: Sight and Blindness in Reading/Writing/Viewing*.

On the morning of November 2, Steve Taylor, an award-winning fiction writer, will present a workshop on teaching fiction. The afternoon will offer a workshop on National Board Certification with poetry readings following the workshop. A dinner theatre will be presented in the evening. Concurrent conference sessions are scheduled for November 3.

For more information on this conference, please contact Dr. Mitali Wong at Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC 29115, 803-535-5221, or e-mail at wong@claflin.edu.

SC Council of Teachers of English Conference

The South Carolina Council of Teachers of English (SCCTE) Conference will be held at Kiawah Island again this year January 25-27, 2007.

This year Frank Serafini and Harvey Daniels will be the keynote speakers on Friday. Reading Workshop and Best Prac-

tices in ELA will be the topics. Jim Burke will lead the Saturday morning workshop on Effective Instruction in Teaching.

For conference registration and proposal forms, visit the SCCTE webpage at <http://www.sccte.org>.

SCIRA News and Events

Be sure to check the SCIRA Web site at www.scira.org for membership application and applications for wonderful grants and scholarships.

The SCIRA 32nd Annual Conference will be held February 15-17, 2007, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Registration information will be sent out some time in October and will be posted to the Web site. The Thursday night keynote speaker will be Steven Layne, author of *T is for Teachers* and other books. Linda Hoyt will be the Friday keynote speaker and Marcia Tate will speak Saturday morning.

The luncheon speakers are Betsy and Ted Lewin, Kathryn Lasky, and Mary Alice Monroe.

Proposals for presentations will be accepted through mid-September. Proposal forms are posted to the Web site.

Be sure to check the Web site in October for more announcements about authors and speakers, hotel information, and registration information.

South Carolina's Virtual School Needs Real Teachers

The State Department of Education piloted the South Carolina Virtual School (SCVS) this summer by offering two online courses, English 2 and Algebra 2, free of charge to students across the state.

The SCVS will continue this fall offering 18 free courses for initial and advanced placement credit. Listed below are the names of the courses. Five students are needed in order to offer a course.

English 1—I credit
English 2—I credit
English 3—I credit
English 4—I credit
US History 1—I credit
US History 2—I credit
World Geography—I credit
Government—I credit
Economics—I credit

Chemistry—I credit
Algebra 1—I credit
Algebra 2—I credit
AP Physics 1—I credit
AP Physics 2—I credit
AP Calculus—I credit
SAT Prep—.5 credit
Spanish 1—I credit
Spanish 2—I credit

To implement the pilot, we are currently looking for instructors to teach these course at a salary of \$2,000 per 1 credit course and \$1,000 per .5 credit course. In preparation for teaching in the SCVS, each instructor must participate in one day of training.

If you are interested in teaching in the fall SCVS pilot, please contact Dee Appleby, Coordinator of the SCVS, at dappleby@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-0072.

Making Media Literacy a Part of the ELA Classroom

By Frank Baker
Media Educator

Using Political Campaign Commercials in the ELA Classroom

It's that time of year again: politicians are using the airwaves to reach voters. These "spots" are perfect for use in the ELA classroom as they utilize the same "techniques of persuasion" in many conventional ads. To learn more, ask your media specialist for a copy of the September issue of "Cable in the Classroom" magazine or go online at www.ciconline.org. In addition, check out the website The Role of Media in Politics at www.frankwbaker.com.

Incorporating Media Literacy in PBS Series "Eyes on the Prize"

PBS (SCETV) will re-broadcast the award-winning "Eyes on the Prize" series about the Civil Rights movement during the fall 2006 season, starting October 2 at 9:00 p.m. Because the series uses photographs and actual newsreel footage, teachers have another opportunity to help students understand "point-of-view" and media literacy. Series producer Henry Hampton offers this suggestion:

"In the beginning of the movement, in stories about the Supreme Court's Brown decision...and in stories surrounding the lynch-murder of 14 year old Emmett Till, the cameras record basically a white point of view, showing the black characters sympathetically and white racists as they were. As the civil rights movement heats up and it grows increasingly clear where the violence lies, the cameras move behind the march leaders and look outward at the hostile sheriffs and their deputies."

Helpful websites:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/>
<http://pbsvideodb.pbs.org/resources/eyes/>

Companion textbook:

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?z=y&isbn=140096531&itm=1>

Media Literacy and After School Programs

A recent issue of The Page Turner: The Newsletter of Literacy Development in After School Settings was devoted to media literacy. The entire issue can be

downloaded at <http://www.robertbownefoundation.org/ezone/vol3no4/home.php>

NCTE Book on Using Documentaries in the Classroom: Reading in the Reel World: Teaching Documentaries and Other Nonfiction Texts

Author John Golden offers middle and high school teaches a practical guide for using documentary film in the classroom to improve students' reading, writing, and thinking skills; it includes discussions of over 30 films, step-by-step activities, and copy-ready handouts.

More information can be found at <http://www.ncte.org/store/books/12789.htm>.

Website Invites Girls to Reflect on Media

Media educator Renee Hobbs, a 20 year veteran of the media literacy movement, recently launched a new website, e—My Pop Studio, which takes this premise as a starting point. The site targets young middle school and early high school aged girls, encouraging them to reflect more deeply about some of the media they consume—pop music, reality television, celebrity magazines, and the like—by stepping into the role of media producers. The site offers a range of engaging activities—including designing your own animated pop star and scripting their next sensation, re-editing footage for a reality television show, designing the layout for a teen magazine. Along the way, they are asked to reflect on the messages the media offers about what it is like to be a teen girl in America today and to think about the economic factors shaping the culture that has become so much a part of their everyday interactions with their friends. As Hobbs explained during an interview posted on my blog:

"Through remixing, people can generate new ideas. It can be a viable vehicle for people to comment upon the role of media and technology in society. Remixing can strengthen media literacy skills because it can deepen people's awareness of an author's purpose and context. Context is often not well-understood as a component of meaning. Through strategic juxtaposition and shifts in context, messages change their meanings. Remixing illustrates a key concept of media literacy:

that meaning is in people, not in texts."

TYLAND.com Debuts with Retro Commercials

This website, a companion to the Nick Cable Network, now includes downloadable ads from the past. Retromercials: Some of the best programming—and most memorable catchphrases—comes from Madison Avenue's best commercials. Check out this channel to see the classics that allow fans to relive great lines like "You sunk my battleship," "Pretty sneaky, Sis," and "Where's the beef?" Dozens of instantly recognizable TV ads from Wendy's, Starkist Tuna, Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, Raid Bugs, Cracker Jack starring Jack Guilford, 9 Lives Cat Food Company, Battleship, Connect Four, and many more will be available on the player.

Barry's Bulletin: Perspectives from a Leading Mass Educator

Barry Duncan is a long time media educator from Canada. His book *Mass Media & Popular Culture* is widely used in schools. Barry also produces a quarterly newsletter: Barry's Bulletin. In the most recent issue, Barry discusses Canadian teen magazines *Fuel* and *Vergegirl*; highlights the AML's new website; and reviews *Media Studies K-12*, written by Neil Anderson and Sylvie Webb. This edition also includes a review by William Wallace on Thomas Zengotita's book *Mediated: How the Media Shape Your World*; an interview with Chris Worsnop on his continued dedication to media education; and a special contribution by Lee Rother on *Media Education and Youth in the West Bank*.

Two Film Curricula Now Available

The American Film Institute has partnered with United Streaming (ETV) to distribute a new video series called *Lights, Camera, Education!* The series profiles teachers and students who are incorporating filmmaking into the classroom. Log on to ETV's Streamline this fall at <http://www.myetv.org/education/streamlinesc>.

The Independent Film Channel has unveiled its free curriculum program designed for high school English classes. The program—which meets the standards of NCTE and IRA—integrates film study and video production into the study of English literature, writing, and media. For more information visit <http://www3.ifctv.com/filmschool>.

WIN Keeps Working to Help Teachers

WIN's New Logo

The Writing Improvement Network just does "writing," right? Wrong! This is the misconception that led to the development of a new logo that would better communicate all WIN does.

With a student, a book, a pencil, and a keyboard, the new logo shows reading (going upward)... "processed" through the person... to writing... output... to a fine point. The slogan, *Reading and Writing in the 21st Century*, encapsulates WIN's mission statement.

WIN's ongoing mission is to provide assistance to teachers to improve reading and writing instruction for all ages and ability levels through sustained professional development and to support development of English language arts (ELA) curricula for schools faced with increased emphasis on high-stakes testing (eg. PACT, HSAP, EOCEP, and SAT).

WIN's Consultants Have Familiar Faces

WIN will be very busy this year with several projects. Therefore, several part-time consultants have been hired to provide the high quality professional development for which WIN is known.

Schools involved in this year's projects will work with some of South Carolina's best educators.

Frank Baker, multi-media and web site design
Hannah Baker, K-8
Vana Dabney, 6-12 and data analysis
Bonnie Disney, 6-12
Curt Elliot, 6-12
Beverly Jackson, 6-12
Amy Mikell, 6-12
Betsy Smith, K-8
Angela Whetstone, 6-12

WIN-Learning Effects Scoring Academy

This summer, elementary and middle school teachers from Anderson 1, Richland 2, Sumter 17, and York 1 participated in the WIN-Learning Effects Summer 2006 Scoring Academy. During the three-day workshop held at E.L. Wright Middle School in Richland 2, teachers learned to use the South Carolina 15-point rubric to score students papers and received instructional strategies to address weaknesses seen in the student responses. Teachers in grades 3-8 scored approximately 1000 student responses online at the Learning Effects secure site.

District, school, and classroom score reports were made available July 25. To access the secure site, administrators and teachers were given user ids and passwords. In addition to reviewing overall student performance at the district and school level, users can "double click" individual student names on the classroom level report to view an image of the student's response. Analysis of the student's response and the score assigned to that response will enable teachers to develop instructional strategies that address weaknesses.

WIN consultants will provide professional development for participating schools during this school year.

For more information about the WIN-Learning Effects Scoring Academy, contact Ellen James at watsonem@gwm.sc.edu.

WIN-Office of School Quality Professional Development Project for 2006-07

Continuing the collaboration begun last year, WIN and the Office of School Quality will provide a series of workshops for teachers in underperforming schools. These workshops are designed to provide instructional strategies to help teachers improve student achievement. Assessing for Learning is the theme for this year's project. Participation is limited to teachers working in middle schools whose Absolute Report Card rating is "unsatisfactory."

The project consists of four day-long workshops and eight on-site professional development sessions with WIN consultants.

Structure of Sessions

Four day-long sessions (locations to be determined)

- September 13, 2006
- November 9, 2006
- January 17, 2007
- March 21, 2007

Day-long sessions will consist of activities for all participants, as well as break-out activities for participants new to the projects and those participants who are continuing in the project.

Eight school-level sessions

- 4 during first semester
- 4 during second semester

WIN consultants will provide onsite professional development for all project participants. Topics and activities for these school-level sessions will be determined based on each school's needs.

Requirements

Attendance

- Principals must commit to send the same participants to each of the four Columbia sessions.
- Participants must commit to attend each of the four Columbia session and complete all assignments.

Assignments

- Participants must read and discuss assignments from professional texts provided by the project.
- Participants must complete specified activities with their students.

SC Reading First Stays Busy and Beneficial

Approximately 380 children benefited from reading and writing instruction in summer school at four South Carolina Reading First schools: Britton's Neck Elementary in Marion District Seven, Eastside Elementary in Laurens District Fifty-Six, Harleyville-Ridgeville Elementary in Dorchester District Four, and Lake City Elementary in Florence District Three. During the four-week summer school session, over three hundred educators had the opportunity to observe in one of the nineteen classrooms. Thirty-eight SC Reading First literacy coaches alternated between the role of teacher and coach. In addition, one interventionist at each site provided support through small group instruction within each classroom.

Observers began their day watching literacy instruction. After the students completed their day, the coach and teacher debriefed with participants concerning instructional decisions. Professional development continued in afternoon sessions facilitated by South Carolina Reading First Professional Development Providers.

Opportunities for learning and growth occurred on multiple levels. First and foremost, children benefited from the additional reading and writing instruction provided during this summer school experience. Teachers saw this as a tremendous learning opportunity for focusing on classroom practices. Coaches who shifted between the role of teacher and coach found this professional learning experience invaluable.

Response to this summer school experience was overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. Those involved in teaching and coaching said it was one of the most rewarding professional growth experiences they had experienced. From written comments collected from teachers who observed, this was an exciting and worthwhile opportunity.

"As a coach, I need to choose my words carefully when debriefing with a teacher. Teaching is an incredibly tough job, and teachers need all of the support that we can give them."

"I once thought seeing is believing and to an extent, this is true. I would like to add that doing makes you a real believer."

"I found the opportunity to observe and reflect and share to be extremely beneficial. I learned a lot about my own teaching practices through this experience. I would love to do this again."

"My classroom instruction will be changing dramatically because of what I have learned. This experience was time well spent!"

On the final day of summer school, as students were heading out, one child summed up the experience with this comment, "I wish we could come back." Another looked wistfully at the teacher and asked, "Now when does the next summer school start?"



SCRI Starts New K-5 Cohort, MG and HS Continue Learning

Sharon Wadpole and Michael McKenna said, "Successful literacy coaches must make a substantial and permanent commitment to their own learning."

To this end, South Carolina Reading Initiative (SCRI) continues to reach across the state with its four-year model for training literacy coaches. The initiative begins its newest phase of K-5 implementation with SCRI Phase 4. Twenty-six elementary teachers will be trained as literacy coaches in this newest cohort.

As this phase begins, SCRI Phase 2 and SCRI-MG Phase 1 coaches begin their fourth and final year of study, while SCRI Phase 3 coaches enter their third year of study. SCRI-MG Phase 2 and SCRI-HS coaches now have a year of study under their belts and

begin their first full year of coaching. These two cohorts have three more years of training to complete their study.

During the 2006-07 school year, SCRI schools will participate in School Leadership Team (SLT) Meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for school SLT groups to become agents for school change as they develop a common vision and a shared language regarding how children learn. They will also determine what makes effective literacy instruction as they work through the implementation of their SCRI literacy plans through SLT participation.

Contact Pam Wills at pwills@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8391 for questions concerning SCRI or SC Reading First.

Opportunities and Resources for Students

Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

The South Carolina Arts Commission is proud to partner with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundations to bring Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest to all high schools across South Carolina. This national contest encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.

Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest satisfies more than half of the NCTE English language arts standards and includes high-quality free materials, optional lesson plans, and an extensive web site (<http://www.poetryoutloud.org>) for teachers and students.

Any high school teacher in South Carolina can sign up to participate by contacting Theresa J. Wallace before the deadline of September 29, 2006, at tjwallace@arts.state.sc.us or 803-734-8639.

River of Words

The South Carolina Center for the Book is proud to partner with the Library of Congress and the River of Words foundation to bring the River of Words contest to students in South Carolina. River of Words is a free, international poetry and art contest for youth on the theme of watersheds. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover.

The contest is open to any student in South Carolina from 5-19 years of age. Students may enter on their own or as part of a group (classroom, scout troop, etc.)

The deadline for entries is February 15, 2007. For more information about the contest and the entry form, visit <http://www.riverofwords.org>. For questions or additional information, contact Theresa Wallace at tjwallace@schumanities.org or 803-771-2477.

Wilbooks and Title I Schools

Did you know that Wilbooks "Reading Collections" are available as part of the Title I Book Grant? Title I schools will receive one free collection for each collection purchased at our normal price.

If you are not a Title I school, Wilbooks has several other free book programs available that may assist your school.

For more information on this program, go to <http://www.wilbooks.com>.

Wilbooks and Bruce Larkin

Bruce Larkin, the published author of over five hundred early children's books including the extremely popular Larkin's Little Readers Series, donates 20,000 books per week to kindergarten through second grade students.

There is no charge for these books or for shipping and handling. Individual teachers are encouraged to apply by going to <http://www.wilbooks.com>.

Wilbooks Accepting Manuscripts

Wilbooks is currently accepting manuscripts from professional educators. If you have a book or book idea for K-3 students, go to <http://www.wilbooks.com>. Do not send any manuscripts to Wilbooks until you have been contacted by a company representative. We are accepting all genres, but are particularly interested in nonfiction titles.

LEF Offers Matching Book Grants

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF) has increased the size of the matching grants available to \$12,000 per school. A school can now order \$24,000 worth of books and pay only \$12,000. (Any amount purchased from \$100 to \$12,000 will be matched.)

The Matching Book Grant Program offers Guided Reading and Independent Reading Collections. Guided Reading Collections consist of six copies each of eighteen titles. Independent Reading Collections consist of one copy each of 108 titles. With each set of Guided Reading and/or Independent Reading Collections purchased at the regular price, an additional set of books will be included.

This is a limited time offer that requires no special screening or application. Orders must be received by October 15, 2006. Information and a matching book grant order form are available at <http://www.lefbooks.org>.

OFFICE OF
CURRICULUM AND
STANDARDS
SOUTH CAROLINA
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The Office of Curriculum and Standards provides statewide leadership and services to schools and districts to ensure the implementation of grade-level standards-based instruction for all students.

We accomplish this by:

- developing and revising academic standards and expanding support materials;
- promoting the use of effective evidence-based instructional practices by schools and districts; and
- facilitating the implementation of programs, projects, grants, and activities that support standards-based instruction

Literacy Links is published by the
Office of Curriculum and Standards.

The newsletter will be posted to the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the English language arts Web pages the first week of every other month.

Issues for this school year will be posted September, November, January, March, and May.

If you have questions about *Literacy Links* or have a comment or concern, please contact Allison Norwood at anorwood@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-2469.

"I got my big break when I was five years old, and it's taken more than 70 years to realize it. At five, I learned to read, and I would not be standing here without the books, plays, and scripts."

Sean Connery

English Language Arts Staff

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Best Practice Seminar Series 2006-2007 Registration Form

A series of seminars highlighting best practices will be offered during the 2006-2007 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the Office of Curriculum and Standards at the State Department of Education (SDE) and the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA). A schedule of the sessions, dates, audiences, general topics, and locations is included with this registration form. Each session will be held in Columbia from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. **Please use this form to register for any sessions you are interested in attending.**

Instructions: To register for any of these seminars, please complete this form and mail it and a **check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00 for each session for which you are registering** to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. Directions to the session locations will be posted to the State Department of Education website. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at redman@comporium.net or fax at 803-329-1952. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Caroline Savage at 803-734-4470 or csavage@ed.sc.gov.**

Please indicate with an "X", beside the SESSION column, the session you wish to attend.

Session	X	Session Date	Presenter	Deadline	Location
Session 1		September 20, 2006	Quality Quinn	September 8, 2006	The Cotton House
Session 2		October 24, 2006	Carol Jago	October 9, 2006	Seawell's
Session 3		November 17, 2006	Tim Rasinski	November 1, 2006	Columbia Conference Center
Session 4		November 29, 2006	Joyce VanTassel - Baska	November 10, 2006	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 5		December 6, 2006	Frank Baker	November 20, 2006	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 6		December 7, 2006	Frank Baker	November 20, 2006	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 7		January 11, 2007	Carl Anderson	December 18, 2006	Columbia Conference Center
Session 8		February 14, 2007	Bruce Morgan	January 29, 2007	Columbia Conference Center
Session 9		March 1, 2007	Janet Angelillo	February 19, 2007	Columbia Conference Center
Session 10		March 20, 2007	Sharon Kazee	March 5, 2007	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 11		April 26, 2007	Wendy Hoffer	April 9, 2007	SC Archives and History Center

Please provide the following information.

Name _____

Position/Content Area _____ Grade _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

2006-2007 Best Practice Seminar Series

Presenter	Topic	Audience
Quality Quinn	Formative Assessment and Differentiation: The Missing Link After third grade, the achievement gap with minorities, second language learners, and low-income students widens substantially. This session will examine literacy's role in bridging this gap through formative assessment and differentiation. How can administrators and teachers in all content areas work together to prepare for early success and keep students from falling further behind each year?	All Levels Administrator Strand
Carol Jago	Cohesive Writing: Handling the Paper Load through Improved Student Writing This session offers practical help with teaching students to write effective essays both on demand and through revision. Participants will learn how to help students focus, organize, and develop their ideas for writing. Particular emphasis will be given to revision strategies. The workshop will also offer practical techniques for handling the paper load.	Middle/ High School
Tim Rasinski	Working with Struggling Readers: Effective and Engaging Strategies that Work Based on his work with struggling readers, Dr. Rasinski will share strategies that have been proven to help students who find learning to read difficult. Strategies in the areas of phonics, vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension appropriate for any content area will be shared.	All Levels
Joyce Van Tassel-Baska	Differentiation and Working With the Accelerated Learner in All Classrooms This session will emphasize successful strategies for working with advanced learners in classrooms at all grade levels. It will provide key teaching and learning models that can be applied to meet differentiation requirements for this population, using a variety of curriculum. Strategies for differentiating curriculum will also be featured along with criteria for selecting reading materials.	All Levels Administrator Strand
Frank Baker	Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: A 21st Century Literacy Skill Many of our young people are media savvy, but they are not media literate. Frank Baker helps participants understand "media literacy" and its place in all content area standards. What are the skills you need in order to help your students be critical thinkers and viewers in the 21st century?	Elementary
Frank Baker	Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: A 21st Century Literacy Skill Many of our young people are media savvy, but they are not media literate. Frank Baker helps participants understand "media literacy" and its place in all content area standards. What are the skills you need in order to help your students be critical thinkers and viewers in the 21st century?	Middle/ High School
Carl Anderson	How's It Going? Conferencing With Students Anderson will lead participants through the challenging but essential terrains of learning to confer with students. This session will examine the teacher's role in conferences, strategies for teaching students to take an active role, ways to weave text, mini-lessons, classroom management strategies, and responses to the most frequently asked questions about conferring.	Elementary/ Middle
Bruce Morgan	Writing Through the 'Tween Years Bruce Morgan will share how teachers can get back to the joys of teaching writing in a literature-rich, thoughtful environment. Strategies will be shared on how to develop a writing program that involves integrating insights from reading strategy instruction with a renewed emphasis on the basics of writers' workshop: student choice, teacher modeling, revision, and using quality mentor texts.	Elementary/ Middle
Janet Angelillo	A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation: Helping Writers Use Conventions with Precision and Purpose Through mini-lessons, partner and small-group activities, students catch on to the power of punctuation by looking at how authors use it and by noticing it in advertising, newspapers, and other kinds of text. Janet Angelillo will share ideas for using a variety of text and more for learning about punctuation.	Elementary/ Middle
Sharon Kazee	Interdisciplinary Connections and the Arts This session will focus on making interdisciplinary connections through arts integration. Topics will include defining arts integration, exploring current research, accessing resources, and looking at sample units and lessons that effectively integrate the arts with other academic areas. Strategies will be shared to make these connections through active participation.	All Levels
Wendy Hoffer	Inquiry for Everyone! Evoke students' curiosity. Challenge students' thinking. Organize students' learning. Assess students' growth. This session will touch on each of these essential building blocks to successful inquiry-based learning experiences across content areas.	Middle/ High School